

STARTM
comics



75¢
CAN. 95¢

3
APR

MARVEL®

ANIMAX



"RETREAD'S
REVENGE!"

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:
THE

DEFENDER

...OR, THE ATTACK OF THE AIRHEAD!

WHEN THE OLD DAYS WERE ENDED, THE OLD WAYS WERE ENDED AS WELL. DAZED, WOUNDED AND BURNT OUT, MAN BARELY SURVIVED DOOMSDAY. UNABLE TO DO MORE THAN LICK HIS WOUNDS AND LIE EXHAUSTED IN THE SUN, MAN WAS HELPLESS WHILE HIS ENEMIES TOOK NEW SHAPE AND ROSE AGAIN, REACHING OUT TO CRUSH THE BREATH FROM HIS LIVING BODY.

IN THAT FINAL HOUR, THERE AROSE A LAST DEFENSE AGAINST THE THREATENING DARKNESS. HIDDEN WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF THE LIVING JUNGLE STANDS THE MIGHTY JUNGLE LAIR, A FORTRESS OF STRENGTH IN A TROUBLED TIME.

IT IS THE SECRET HOME OF THE DEFENDERS OF THE LAST SURVIVORS OF MANKIND...

IT IS THE SECRET HOME... OF THE ANIMAX!

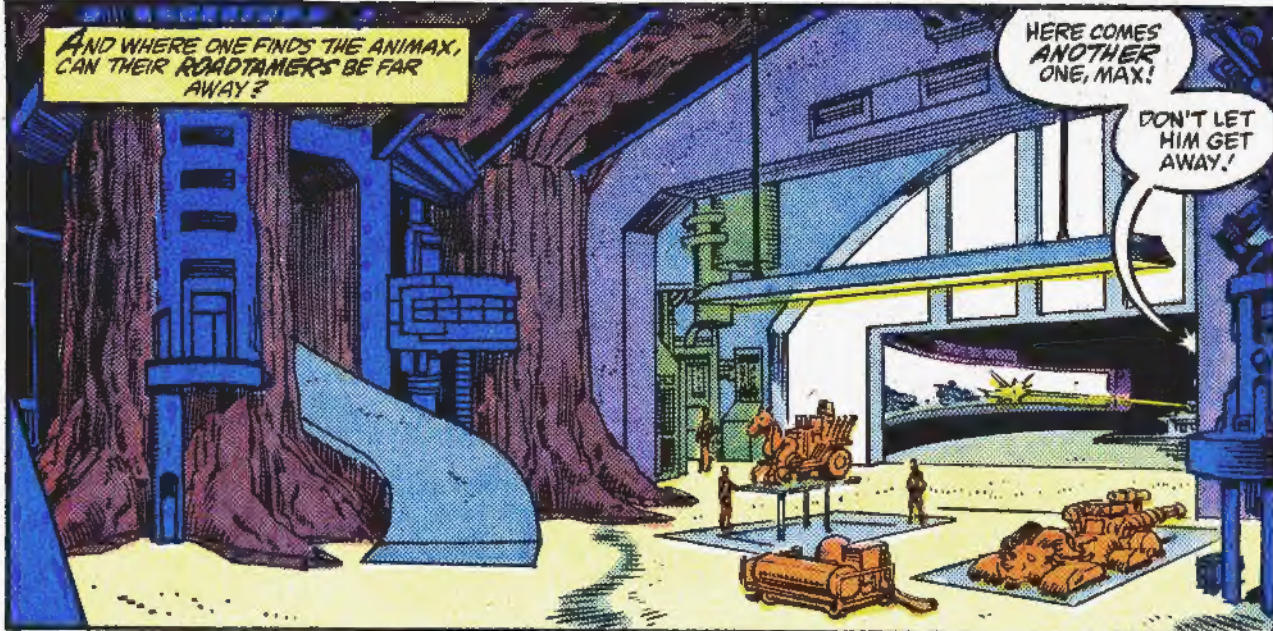
WALT SIMONSON / STEVE PURCELL / GERRY TALAOC / RICK PARKER / PETRA SCOTESI / DON DALEY / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR ED. IN CHIEF

ANIMAX™ Vol. 1, No. 3, April, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galt, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1986 Kiscorn, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rates \$9.00 for 12 issues and \$11.00 in Canada and foreign. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. ANIMAX (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of Kiscorn Inc. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO ANIMAX, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

AND WHERE ONE FINDS THE ANIMAX,
CAN THEIR ROADTAMERS BE FAR
AWAY?

HERE COMES
ANOTHER
ONE, MAX!

DON'T LET
HIM GET
AWAY!

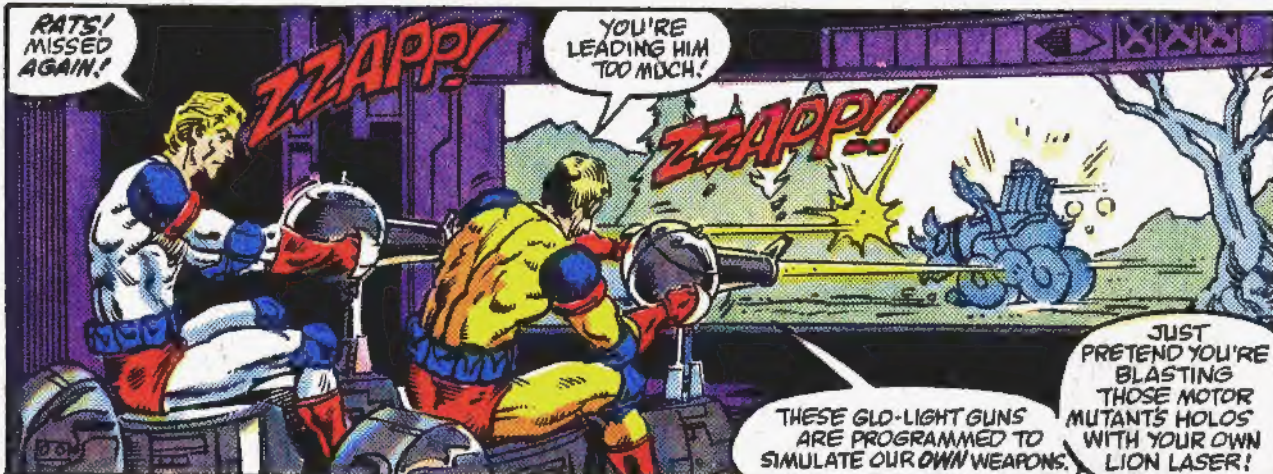


RATS!
MISSED
AGAIN!

ZZAPP!

YOU'RE
LEADING HIM
TOO MUCH!

ZZAPP!!



THESE GLO-LIGHT GUNS
ARE PROGRAMMED TO
SIMULATE OUR OWN WEAPONS.

JUST
PRETEND YOU'RE
BLASTING
THOSE MOTOR
MUTANTS HOLOS
WITH YOUR OWN
LION LASER!

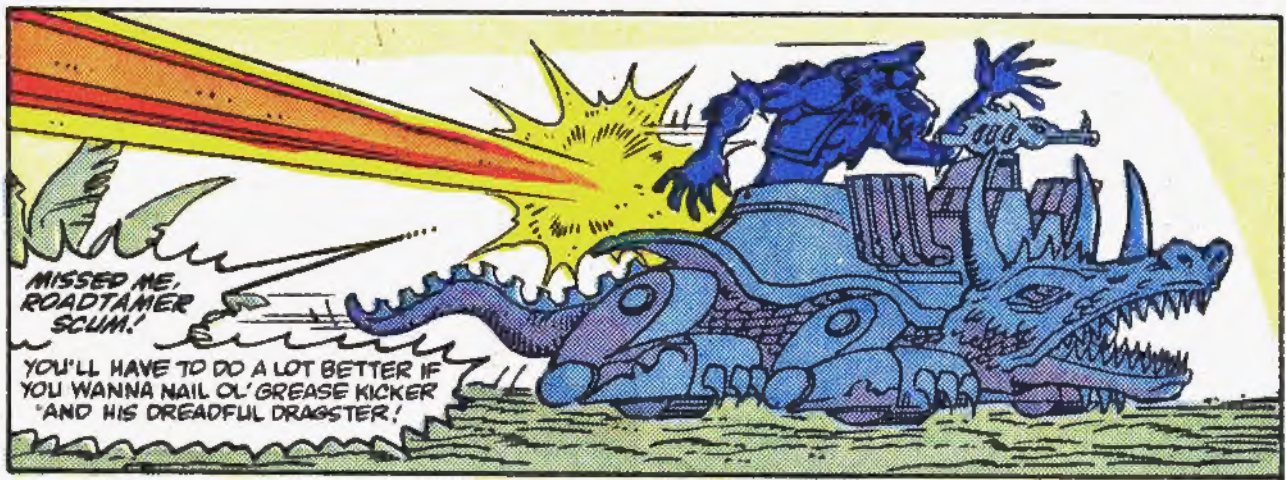
AND THE CROWD GOES
WILD! TIGER TRAKKER AND
HIS STRIPED STRIKER NAIL
GROSS-OUT AND HIS ROAD-
HOG BEFORE THEY CAN
ESCAPE!

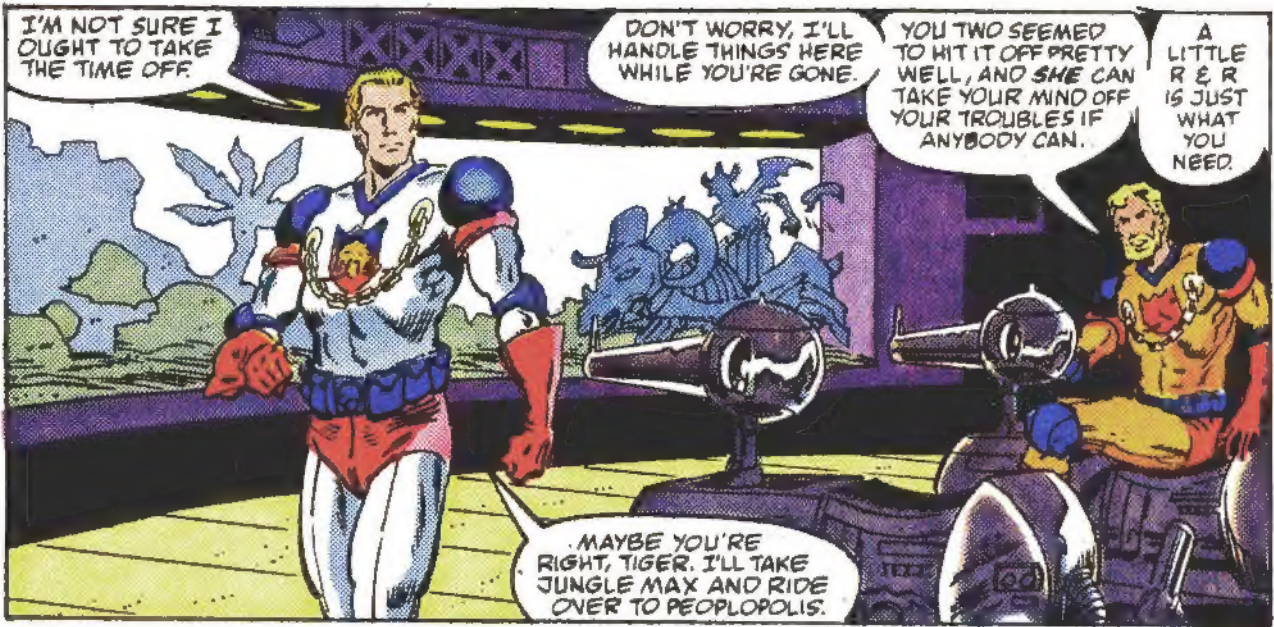


ARGH!!
GOT ME,
YOU DIRTY
RAT!

AND THE TIGER'S EAGLE
EYE CATAPULTS HIM INTO
THE LEAD!







I'M NOT SURE I OUGHT TO TAKE THE TIME OFF.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL HANDLE THINGS HERE WHILE YOU'RE GONE.

YOU TWO SEEMED TO HIT IT OFF PRETTY WELL, AND SHE CAN TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TROUBLES IF ANYBODY CAN.

A LITTLE R & R IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED.

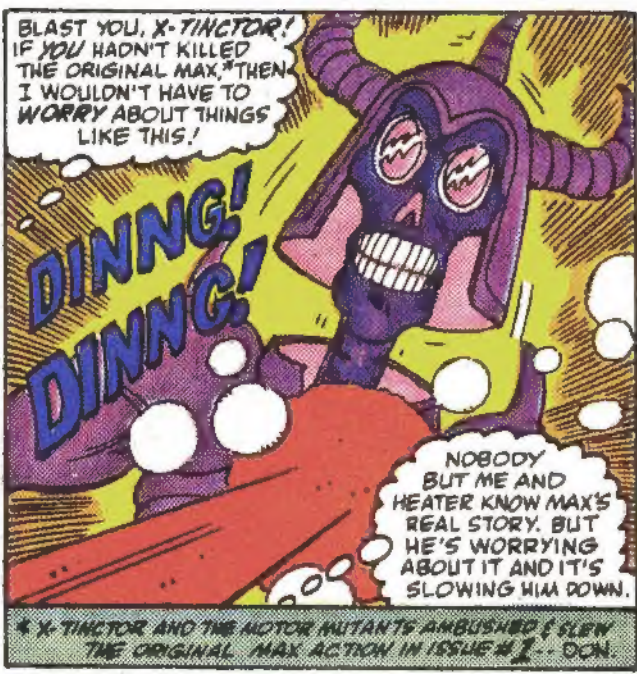
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, TIGER. I'LL TAKE JUNGLE MAX AND RIDE OVER TO PEOPLOPOLIS.



I COULDN'T LET MAX KNOW HOW WORRIED I REALLY AM.

X-TINCTOR AND THE REST OF HIS MOTOR MUTANTS ARE STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE ON THE LITESIDE OF EARTH.

AND EVEN THOUGH THE NEW MAX IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL, IS HE REALLY AS GOOD?



BLAST YOU, X-TINCTOR! IF YOU HADN'T KILLED THE ORIGINAL MAX, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS!

NOBODY BUT ME AND HEATER KNOW MAX'S REAL STORY. BUT HE'S WORRYING ABOUT IT AND IT'S SLOWING HIM DOWN.

* X-TINCTOR AND THE MOTOR MUTANTS AMBUSHED & KILLED THE ORIGINAL MAX ACTION IN ISSUE #1 - DON



WILL WE BEAR THE PRESSURE OF BEING THE ANIMAX LEADER?

AND IF HE CAN'T CUT IT, WHAT THEN?

THE ANIMAX NEED A STRONG LEADER. WHO ELSE COULD HANDLE IT?

CAN I TAKE THE LEADERSHIP ROLE. AWAY FROM MAX IF I HAVE TO? WILL IT DESTROY THE MORALE HERE IF I TRY?

BUT AS TIGER TRAKKER PONDERES THE FATE OF MAN AND ANIMAX...

... WE TURN TO LOOK SOMEWHERE OUT ON THE GREAT PLAINS OF THE LITESIDE.

THE CARNIVAUURS ARE ALL FIXED, X-TINCTOR! WE'RE READY!

LET'S GO GET 'EM!

WE'VE GOT TO BE SMARTER THAN THAT, TORRENDUS.

WITH MAX ACTION LEADING THE ANIMAX AGAIN, WE'VE LOST THE INITIATIVE.

WE'LL HAVE TO GET IT BACK!

COME ON, YOU SCUM! BREAK OUT THE SPECIAL PACKS AND GET 'EM ASSEMBLED!

MOVE IT! IT'S TIME WE QUIT FOOLING AROUND!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE ACTION SURVIVED THE AMBUSH!

IF NOT FOR HIM, WE MOTOR MUTANTS WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ANIMAX AND WON THE LITE SIDE! CURSES!

ALL RIGHT, BULL-VERISER! CRANK IT UP AND START PUMPING AIR!

STEP ON IT!

PUFF!
PUFF!
PUFF!

OR I'LL FEED YOU TO THE CREVITORS IN THE CRACK OF DOOM!

PUFF! PUFF! PUFF! PUFF!

AND SLOWLY,
SOMETHING
BEGINS TO
GROW...

...AND
GROW...

AND
GROW...

UNTIL AT LAST...

RETREAD,
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?

SURE, BOSS. I
FILLED UP WITH AIR
CLEAR TO MY TOP
SOUND TRAVELS
THROUGH MY
HEAD GOOD.

THEN HERE
ARE YOUR
ORDERS.

FIND THE
ANIMAX! SEEK
THEM OUT! AS-
CERTAIN THEIR
WHERE-
ABOUTS!

AND
WHEN YOU'VE
FOUND THEM,
REMEMBER
WHERE!

UH,
RIGHT,
BOSS.

THEN REPORT
TO ME AT ONCE!
YOU UNDER-
STAND?

UH,
RIGHT
BOSS.

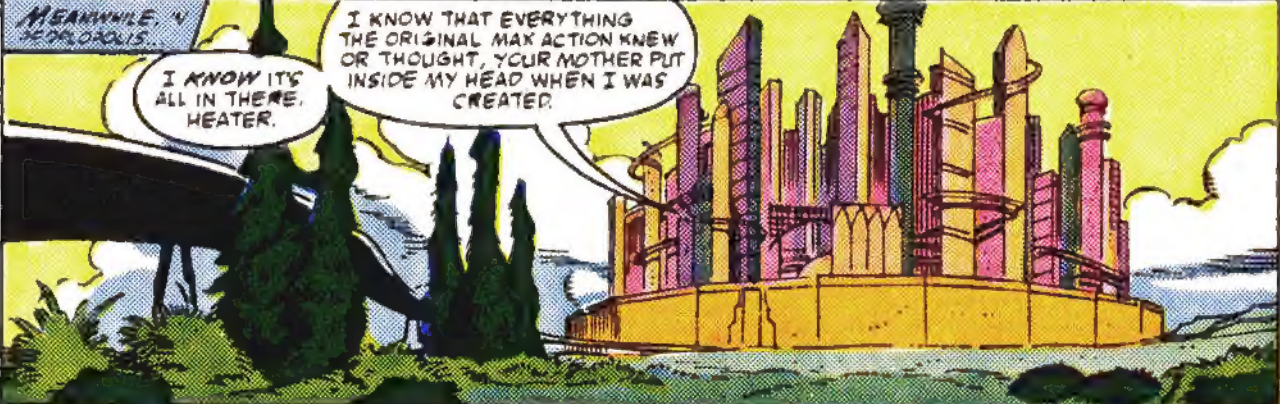
AND DON'T
FORGET TO
COME BACK!

UH, RIGHT,
BOSS!

WHAT AN
AIRHEAD!

BUT HE KNOWS ENOUGH
TO GET THE JOB DONE!
AND THAT'S WHAT
COUNTS!

FISSSSSSSST!



MEANWHILE, IN PEOPLOPOLIS...

I KNOW IT'S ALL IN THERE, HEATER.

I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING THE ORIGINAL MAX ACTION KNEW OR THOUGHT, YOUR MOTHER PUT INSIDE MY HEAD WHEN I WAS CREATED.



BUT SOMEHOW, IT'S LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FILING SYSTEM.

DON'T BE SILLY MAX, YOU RESCUED JUNGLE MAX, YOU SAVED THE TWIN TIGERS, AND YOU SAVED PEOPLOPOLIS.*

I CAN'T GRAB HOLD OF WHAT I NEED.

SOMETIMES, I THINK MAYBE I'M GOIN' NUTS!

OR MAYBE I'M JUST THE GHOST OF A GUY WHO USED TO BE A HERO.

* IN THE LAST COUPLE OF ISSUES.



MAYBE YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE?

WHAT COUNTS IS WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

EVEN THOUGH I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HALF OF WHAT'S GOING ON...



...YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL BETTER, HEATER. MAYBE MY TRACK RECORD ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

TIME TO GET BACK TO THE JUNGLE LAIR.

YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY GLAD I CAME, HEATER. THANKS FOR THE LISTEN.

WHENEVER YOU WANT, MAX. JUST GIVE IT TIME. THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.

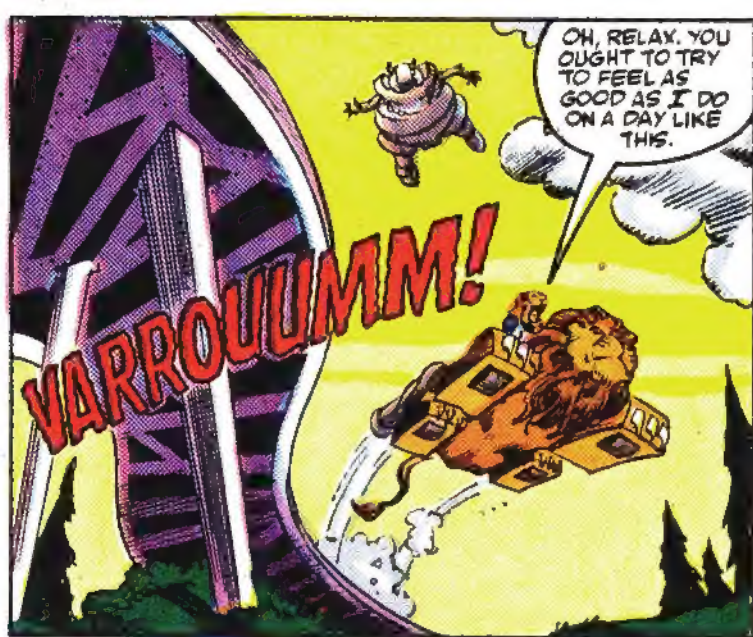


MOMENTS LATER...

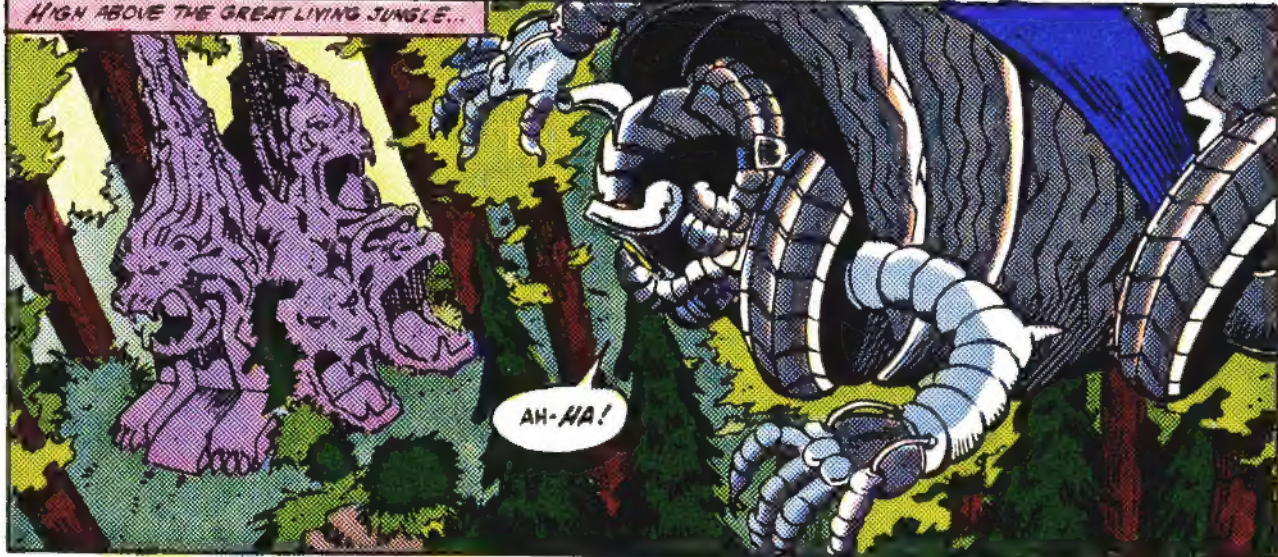
SHE SURE IS SOME GIRL!

WONDER WHAT SHE'S GIVING TIME TO?

! SNIFF !
! SNIFF !



HIGH ABOVE THE GREAT LIVING JUNGLE...



AH-HA!



RETREAD FIND THE ANIMAX!

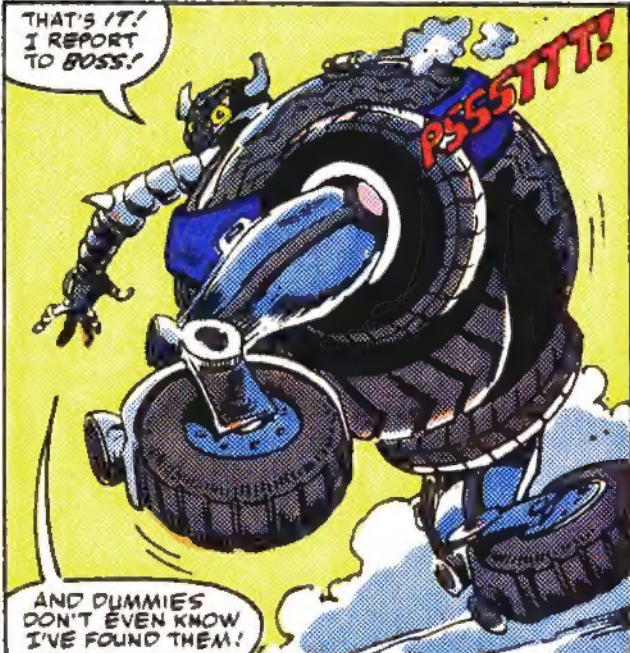
NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

"AND WHEN YOU'VE FOUND THEM, REMEMBER WHERE!"

"UH, RIGHT, BOSS."

"THEN REPORT TO ME AT ONCE, YOU UNDERSTAND?"

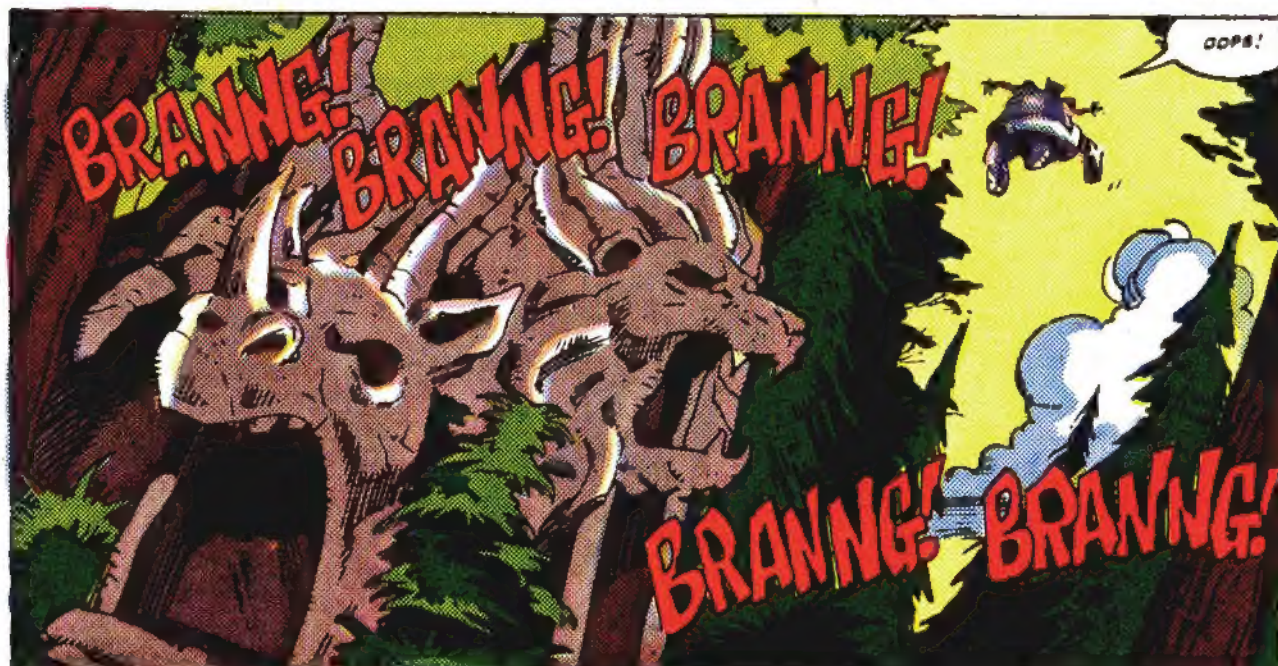
"UH, RIGHT, BOSS."



THAT'S IT! I REPORT TO BOSS!

PSSSTTT!

AND DUMMIES DON'T EVEN KNOW I'VE FOUND THEM!



BRANNG! BRANNG! BRANNG!

BRANNG! BRANNG!

GOPE!

INSIDE THE JUNGLE LAIR, THERE'S A SUDDEN MAD SCRAMBLE!

BRANNING! BRANNING!

INTRUDER ALERT!

BRANNING!

SOMETHING'S FOUND THE LAIR!

IT CAN'T BE! NOTHING'S EVER PENETRATED THE SECURITY HERE BEFORE!

SCANNERS DON'T SHOW ANYTHING IN THE JUNGLE!

INCREASE SCANNING RANGE. GO TO AERIAL SURVEILLANCE!

THERE IT IS!

BUT WHAT IS IT?

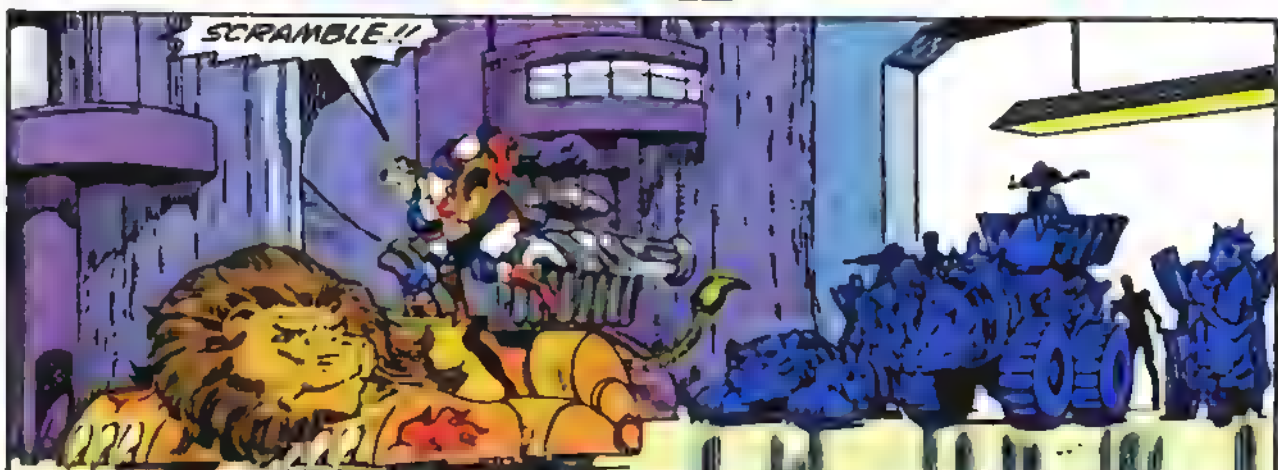
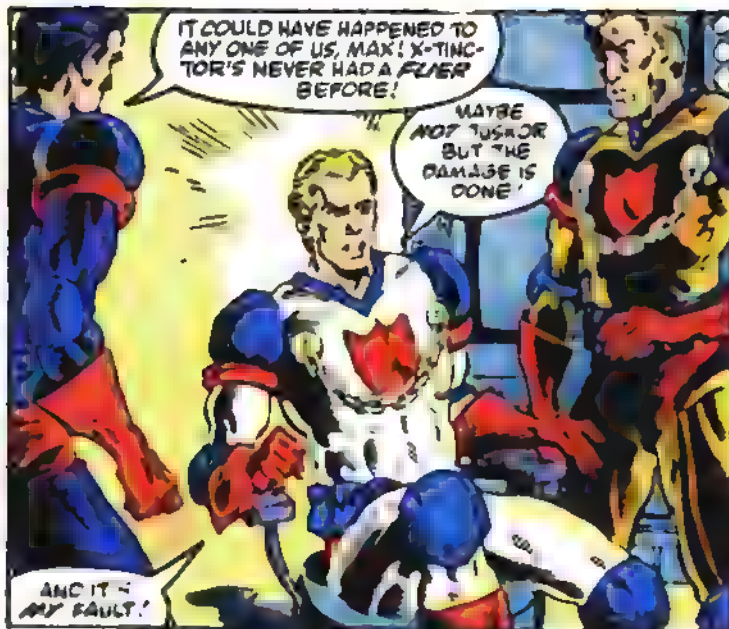
ONE OF X-TINCTOR'S MUTANTS! IT'S GOT TO BE!

CHANCES ARE, IT FOLLOWED YOU BACK HERE FROM PEOPLOPOLIS!

OH, NO!

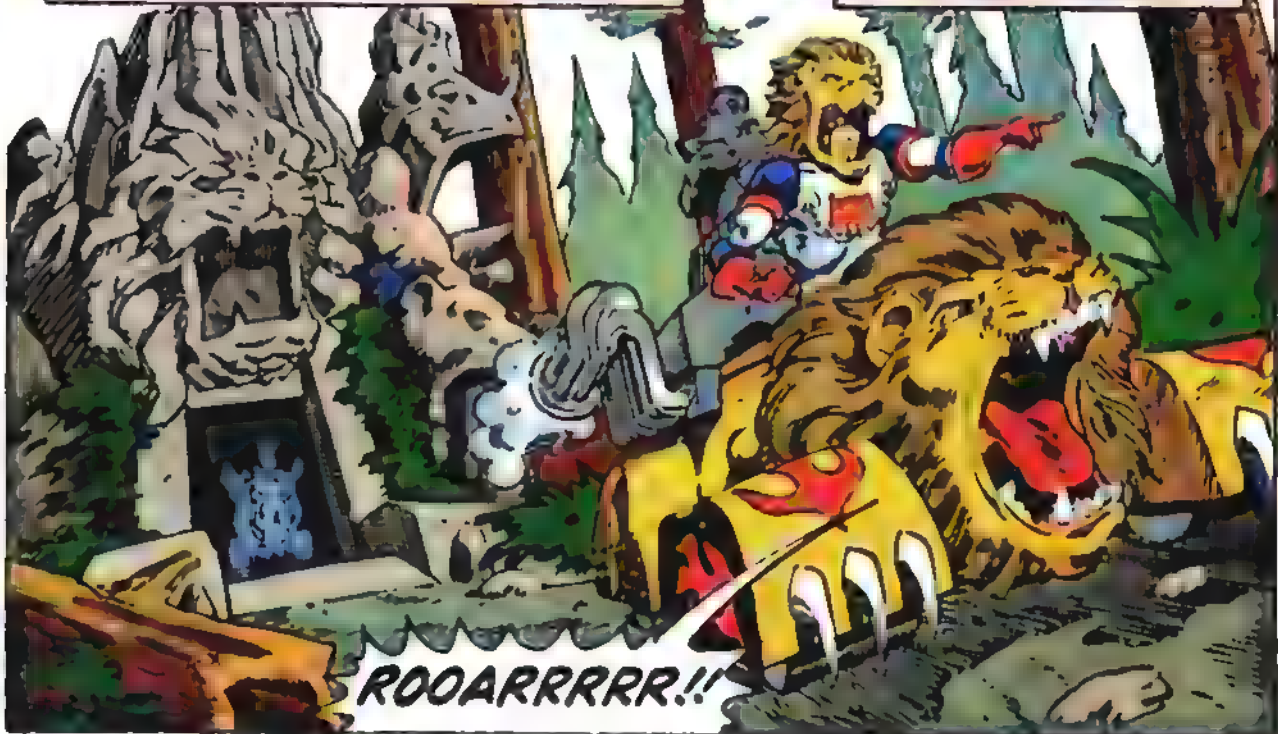
THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WITH THE OLD MAX! MAYBE I WAS RIGHT BEFORE!

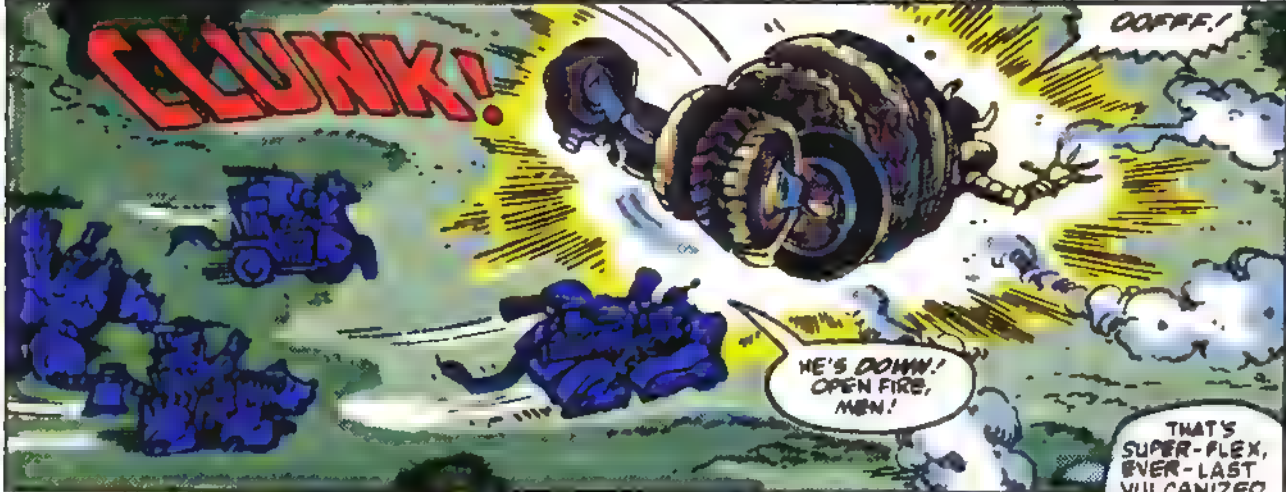
MAYBE THE REAL MAX IS LOST TO US FOREVER!



AND TO THE THUNDEROUS ROAR OF ENGINES AND THE SCREAMING WHINE OF TURBOCHARGERS.

... THE ROADTAMERS AND THE ANIMAX RIDE OUT!



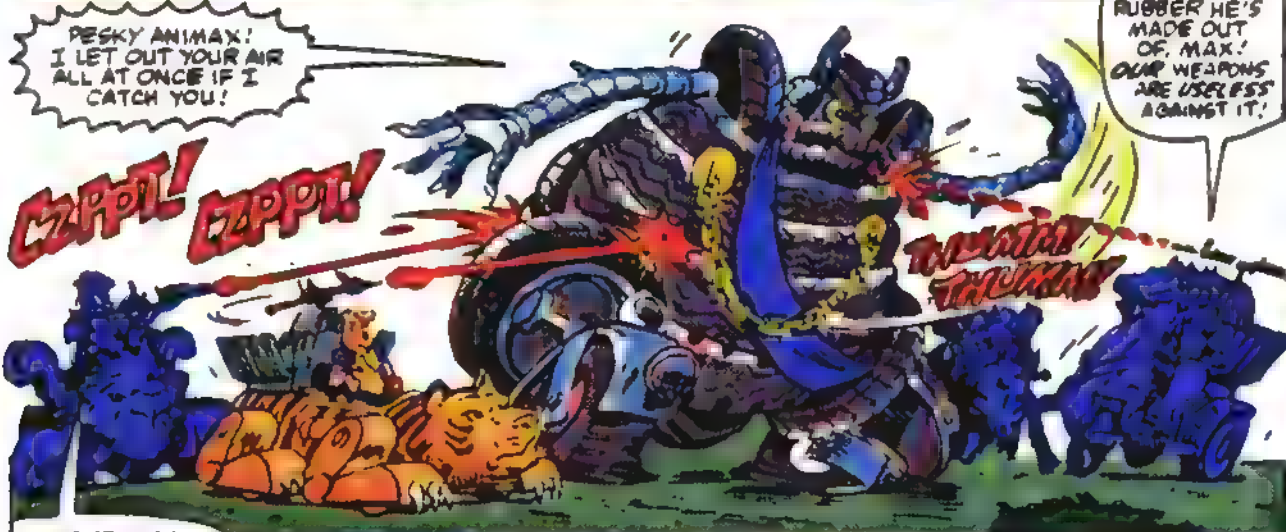


CLUNK!

COFFEE!

HE'S DOWN!
OPEN FIRE,
MEN!

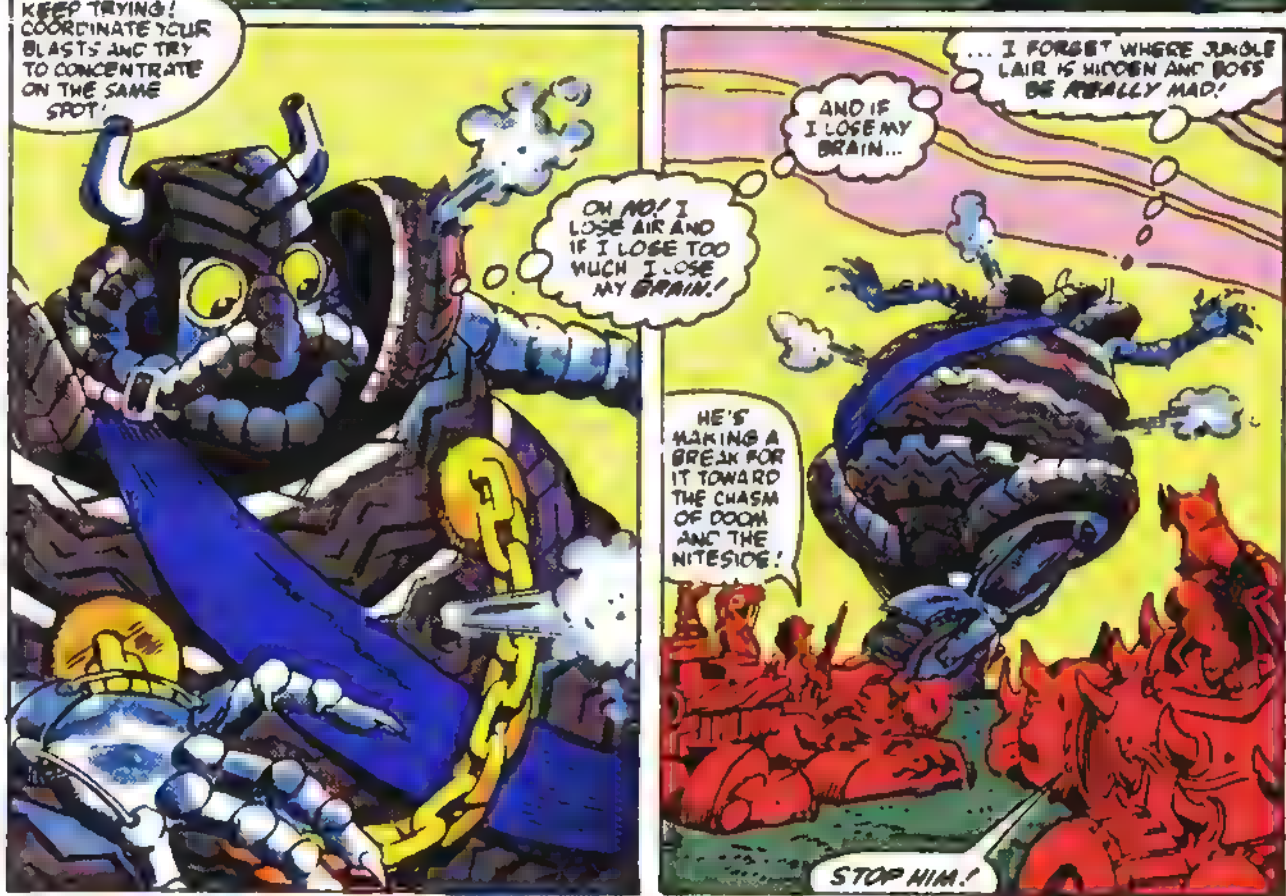
THAT'S
SUPER-FLEX,
EVER-LAST
VULCANIZED
RUBBER HE'S
MADE OUT
OF, MAX!
OUR WEAPONS
ARE USELESS
AGAINST IT!



PESKY ANIMAX!
I LET OUT YOUR AIR
ALL AT ONCE IF I
CATCH YOU!

CZPPT! CZPPT!

THUNDER THUNDER



KEEP TRYING!
COORDINATE YOUR
BLASTS AND TRY
TO CONCENTRATE
ON THE SAME
SPOT!

OH NO! I
LOSE AIR AND
IF I LOSE TOO
MUCH I LOSE
MY BRAIN!

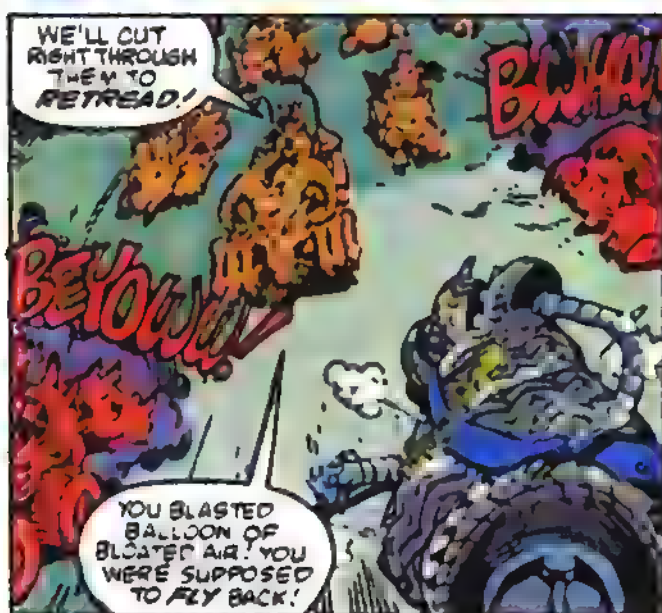
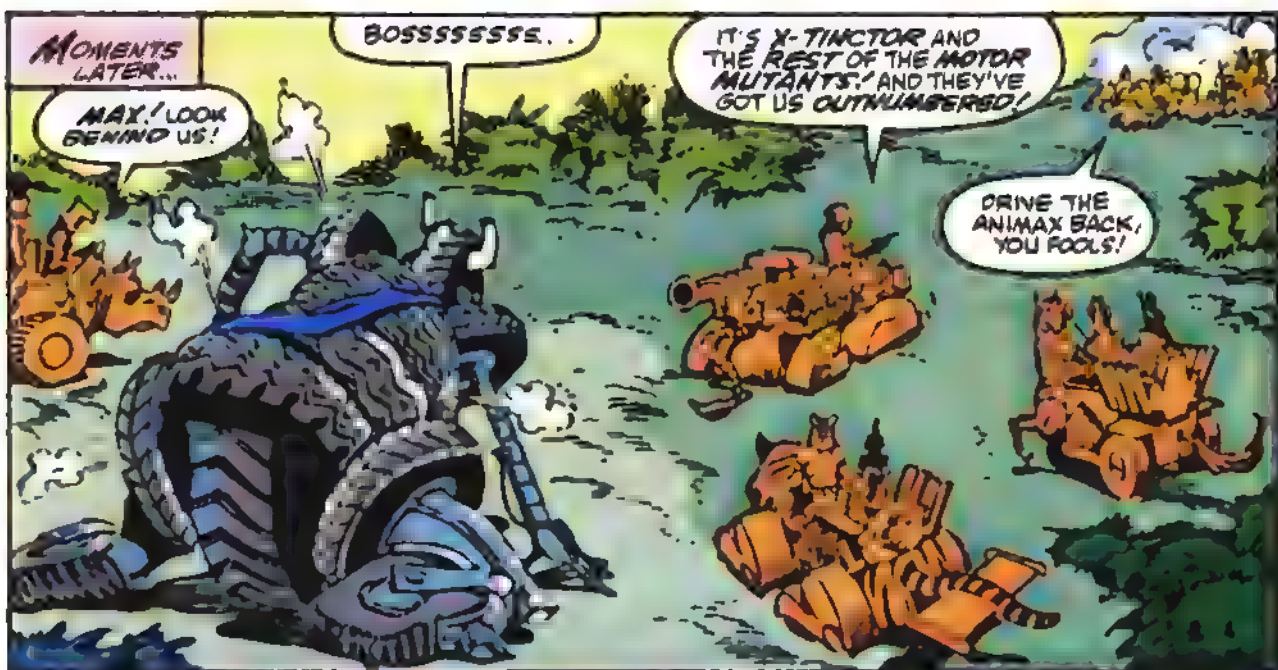
AND IF
I LOSE MY
BRAIN...

... I FORGET WHERE JUNGLE
LAIR IS HIDDEN AND BOSS
BE REALLY MAD!

HE'S
MAKING A
BREAK FOR
IT TOWARD
THE CHASM
OF DOOM
AND THE
NITESIDE!

STOP HIM!





AS THE MUTANTS RACE THROUGH THE LITESIDE, THE SKY BEGINS TO DARKEN AS GREAT CLOUDS ROLL ACROSS THE HEAVENS.

THE GOLDEN SUNLIGHT GROWS PALER AND PALER.

AND ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE LIES A GULF THAT SEEMS TO DIVIDE THE EARTH ITSELF IN TWO!

THE MUTANTS HAVE REACHED THE TWILIGHT ZONE, THE HAUNTED BORDERLAND BETWEEN THE LITESIDE AND THE NITESIDE

HURRY! ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF DOOM. THE AN MAX HAVE RECOVERED FROM THEIR SURPRISE AND THEY'RE GAINING ON US!

OBLITERATOR, RAM THAT IDIOT! FORCE HIM THROUGH THE LITESIDE GATE!

FOOOOOOFPH!

ONCE WE'RE ON THE NITESIDE, EVEN JUNGLE MAX WON'T DARE FOLLOW US!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? GET RETREAD ACROSS!

I'M SSSSTUCK. BOSS'S TOO MUCH AIR.....

PAWWWWWWWW

WE'RE MOVING AGAIN, T-WREX! GUN IT!

HERE COME THE ANIMAX!





BETROUK!
WHOOOON!
SCHRAMM!

IF COVERING
IS TOO HEAVY,
WE'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO FORCE
OUR WAY ACROSS!

WHUP!
WHUP!
WHUP!

DON'T
GIVE UP!

IF WE CAN'T STOP
THAT THING FROM
REVEALING THE LOCA-
TION OF THE JUNGLE
LAIR TO X-TINCTOR,
SOONER OR LATER,
THEN THE ANIMAX WILL
BE IN THE JUNGLE!



WE'RE
THROUGH
THE
GATE!

BACKING UP,
COLLATERATOR!
SLOWLY!

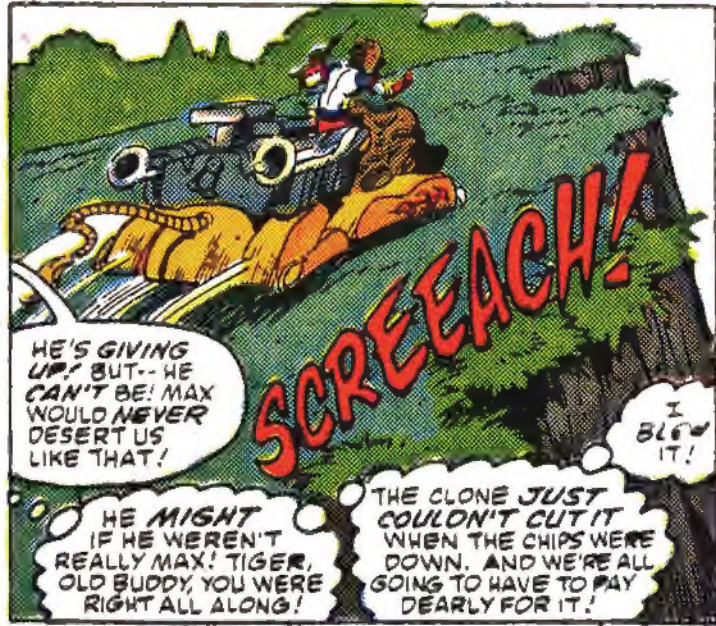
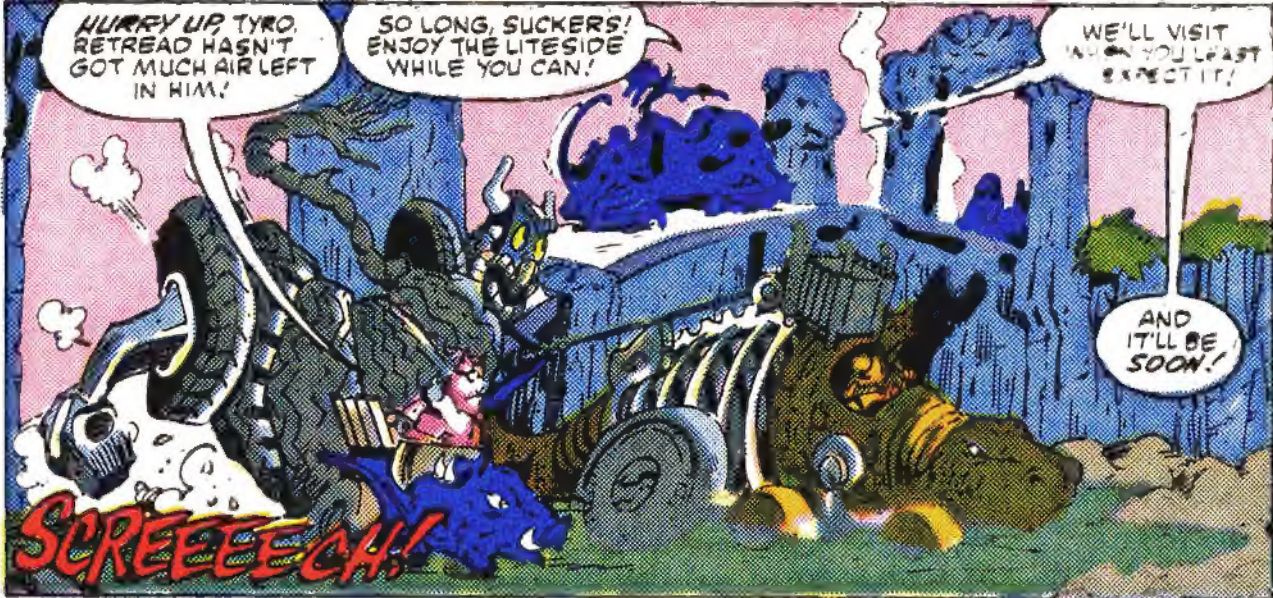
SCHROOCT!
SCHROOCT!

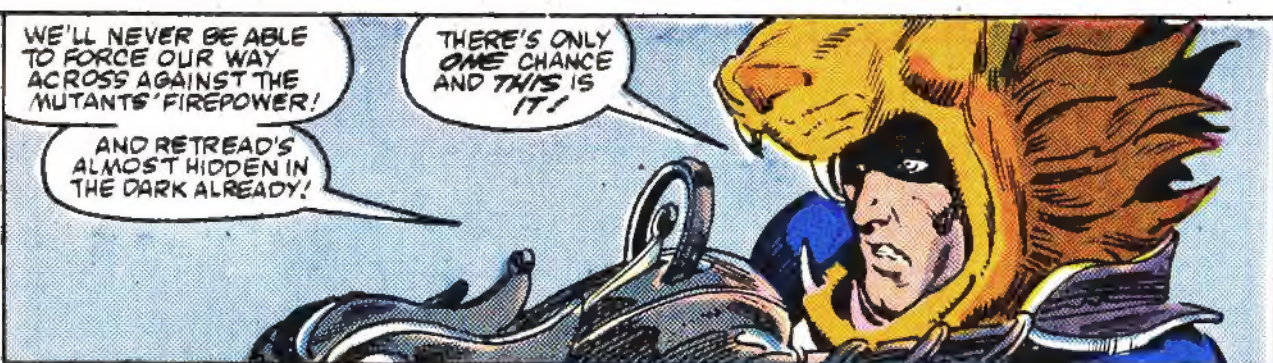


IT'S NO GOOD! THE BRIDGE IS
SHAKING TOO MUCH FOR US TO
GET AN ACCURATE SHOT AT
RETREAD!

X-TINCTOR HAS
FINALLY DEFEATED THE
ANIMAX, MAYBE FOR
ALL TIME!

BUT
WHERE'S
MAX?





WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORCE OUR WAY ACROSS AGAINST THE MUTANTS' FIREPOWER!

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE AND THIS IS IT!

AND RETREAD'S ALMOST HIDDEN IN THE DARK ALREADY!



STEADY, BOY, STEADY!

ALL POWER DIVERTED TO LION LASER! STRENGTH SEVEN AND CLIMBING...



STEADY! A DEEP BREATH!

STRENGTH EIGHT. NOW RELAX... LET IT OUT SOME... STRENGTH NINE!



TYRO... GROSS-OUT... LOOOK OOUUTTT...



STRENGTH TEN!

SKKRHEEYOOOWW!

OHNNN NOOOOOOO



THE MUTANTS AND THE
CARNIVALS WILL NEVER
WIN, NO MATTER WHAT,
X-TINCTOR, BECAUSE
LIGHT WILL ALWAYS
OVERCOME THE DARK!

THE ANIMAX
WILL DEFEND
HUMANITY TO
THE DEATH!

AND NO MATTER
HOW MANY OF US
YOU KILL, A THOU-
SAND MORE WILL
RISE TO TAKE
OUR PLACES!

OUR HERITAGE
IS FREEDOM AND
IN HER CAUSE WE
WOULD GLADLY LAY
DOWN OUR LIVES!
LET THE ENEMIES
OF MANKIND
BEWARE!

AMEN!

THE
END